



UPPER YARRA SECONDARY COLLEGE uysc.vic.edu.au

From the Principal's Desk



The weather at this time of year appears to be a bit of a mixed bag! Whilst students are freezing on their way to school, the days are very nice at the moment and it is great to see so many students active outside during recess and lunchtime.

We have been pleased to see students attending school on time and in the correct uniform throughout these cold and wet days, it seems the tracksuit pants have been a big hit amongst the students! All of our classrooms are heated and the staff have been opening up classrooms and spaces at recess and lunchtime so our students can stay dry and warm.

Term 2 Update

Like all terms seem to be these days, this one is packed! Next week staff have a report writing day on **Wednesday 29th May**, therefore students are not required. We are not far from exams for all students, Year 9 and Year 8 Camp, and Year 10 Work Experience. Before long, another term will be gone.

School Appreciation Week

I would like to make special mention of the SRC (Student Representative Council) and the student leaders for their amazing determination and effort organising and running School Appreciation Week last week. I am so proud that students wanted to show their appreciation for our school and that they were able to independently run the entire week of activities. We are certainly in good hands in the future.

Working Together

As a reminder, we are always here to work in partnership with our families for the best outcomes for your child and our students. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's support teacher should you require.

Scott Tully | Principal

Key Dates

Wednesday 29th May
Student Free Day

Wednesday 5th June
Mid-Year Music Concert

Monday 10th June
King's Birthday Public Holiday

**Tuesday 11th June to
Friday 14th June**
Year 7/8/9 Exams

Friday 14th June
Presentation Ball

**Monday 17th June to
Friday 21st June**
Year 10/11/12 Exams

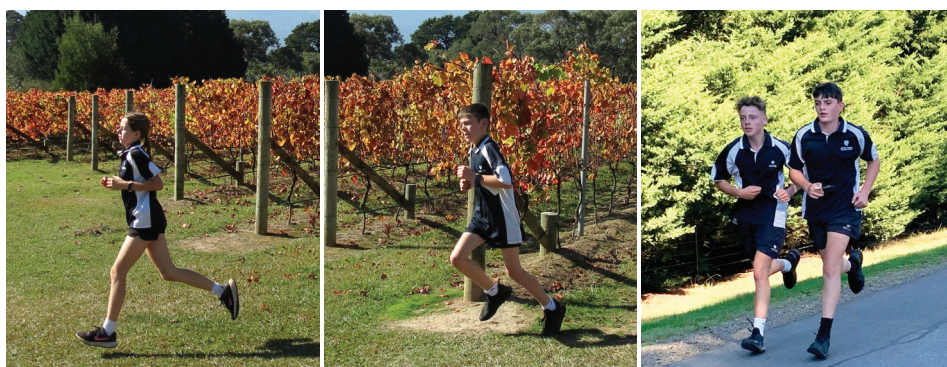
**Monday 17th June to
Friday 21st June**
Year 9 Rubicon Camp

Tuesday 18th June
General Achievement Test (GAT)

**Monday 24th June to
Wednesday 26th June**
Year 8 Summit Camp

**Monday 24th June to
Friday 28th June**
Year 10 Work Experience

Friday 28th June
Last Day of Term 2
2:30pm Finish



CROSS COUNTRY



Community Bank
Warburton and Yarra Junction

Bendigo Bank

If you would like to purchase a copy of *Vignette*, please contact Ms Joanne Cogan at the College.

\$25



SPOTLIGHT
ON
EXCELLENCE

Year 10 Central Australia Camp



Arriving in Alice, greeting our legendary Remote Tours' guides Jackson and Cara, an incredible astronomy session at the Earth Sanctuary World Nature Centre, chatting for a while around the fire, and sleeping outside under the stars.

Heading to the West MacDonnell Ranges, stopping at Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge, and an amazing swim at Glen Helen Gorge, later meeting amazing snakes and lizards, followed by a light show at Alice Springs Desert Park.

Saying goodbye to Alice Springs, singing along to some awesome tunes on the way to Lilla, being welcomed to country by a smoking ceremony, seeing sacred sites and hearing Dreamtime stories.

Waking to the sound of the didgeridoo, heading to Kings Canyon to complete a 7km hike, stopping at the Garden of Eden, a majestic watering hole hidden within the canyon, hearing from local park ranger Ryan, and having the local Elders showing us some traditional tools and how to make bush tobacco.

Leaving Lilla, being walked off the land in Aboriginal tradition, then beginning our journey to Uluru, later walking 6km of Uluru's picturesque base.

Waking early at 4:50am to experience the wonders of Kata Tjuta at sunrise, making our way to the Valley of the Winds, walking in silence and taking in the significance of our location, witnessing a beautiful sunset over Uluru, and finally gathering around the fire in the evening to reflect on our journey.



For always coming to school with a positive attitude, ready to learn, and treating all staff and students with respect.

RUBY GEORGIEV



For her dedicated approach to all school work, and respect and politeness towards teachers.

BELLA LIM



For excellence in all areas of school: year level captaincy, interschool cross country, and outstanding work in the classroom.

ARIEL ROWE



For improving her contribution and engagement across multiple subjects.

MARGHERITA MASON



For demonstrating excellence across all of her studies, showing outstanding commitment and work ethic.

DARCIE BALL



For commitment to her subjects, the school production and SRC, and organisation of School Appreciation Week activities.

JACINTA TAIT





Central was the best camp ever. I learnt so much more than I would have if I just went up with my family on a trip. I enjoyed learning about First Nations' history and stories, it really taught me about how important First Nations' culture is and how long it has been around. I loved all the things Cara and Jackson taught us about and it really inspired me to learn more about Indigenous culture and history from around our own land.

Kiera Osborne Year 10



Thank you so much to Jackson, Cara and Reg for such an amazing experience in the NT. It was the best camp I have ever been on and one that I will remember forever! They had so much knowledge and passion for First Nations people and culture. I'm so grateful for all the stories they were able to share with us. Thank you for making our Year 10 camp so memorable!

Maddie Loveless Year 10





The Colour Run

Los Angeles



Student Leadership Conference



Leadership camp was an amazing experience. We learnt so many life skills, made a lot of great connections, and learnt a lot about the leaders. If you get the chance to go I would 100% recommend it.

Ina Perry Year 8



While at Leadership camp I learned teamwork skills through activities like the low ropes course, and learned how to adapt in high pressure situations through games where Talei often changed up the rules! I connected with fellow leaders and learned more about different people and how they lead.

This camp was a fabulous experience that educated me on many things.

Kim Cochrane Year 9



The Leadership Conference for 2024 was one of the most amazing educational and fun experiences I've ever had.

We were split into two teams: the G.O.A.T.s (Team 1) and the Combustion Potatoes (Team 2). We completed many challenges and games within these teams. The games included real life 'Hungry Hungry Hippos', 'Capture the Flag' and '4 in a chair'.

It was a great way to connect with the other year level leaders and I wish it was longer than it was. Thank you to Mr Gray, Ms Sloan and Ms Hall for being there with us and organising this amazing camp!

Jack Polisen Year 10



Primary School Prep-2 Photo Trail

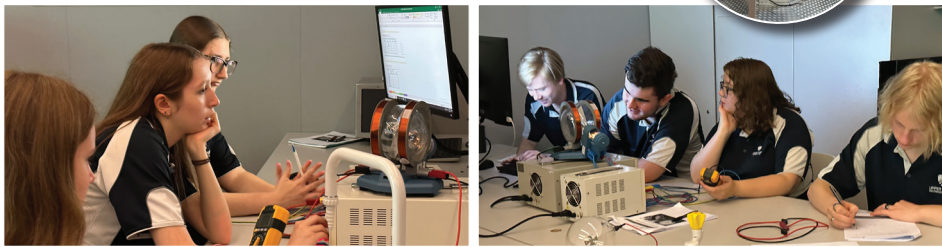


A very successful day with our Year 9 students leading primary school games. Lots of praise for our students and school community in general.

A fantastic way to extend our leaders out of their comfort zone.

Mitchell Gray Health and PE





Physics - Australian Synchrotron Excursion



On Tuesday 7th May, VCE Physics students visited the Australian Synchrotron in Clayton, the largest particle accelerator in the Southern Hemisphere. They learned that the synchrotron light generated, with its high intensity and brightness (many times brighter than the sun), can be used to analyse and examine structures to extremely high precision, and in much shorter time frames than those typically available from standard X-ray and medical imaging equipment, and about X-ray diffraction and spectrum analysis.

Students then completed a lab component investigating electrical and magnetic fields. A very enjoyable and memorable day was had by all.

Dean Thomas Science



Year 12 Outdoor and Environmental Studies - Phillip Island Surfing Camp



Surf camp was a blast, I had never been surfing before and it was so much fun. We went for a surf session on the first day of camp, learnt the basics and started to get the hang of surfing. There were many wipeouts and laughs.

Some other highlights were going to the penguin parade, conservation activities, and hanging out at camp. On the last day, we had some huge waves and the weather was a bit more extreme, but everyone in the class was able to get up on their boards which was great to see. It was so good seeing everyone give it a go!

Tahlia Thornton Year 12



VCE History - Melbourne Holocaust Museum



On 22nd April, we visited the Melbourne Holocaust Museum to engage with the artefacts and resources there.

We were able to look at real primary sources and had the opportunity to speak directly to a survivor. We were lucky to meet Jack Leder, born in Belgium 1938, who escaped to Australia in 1948 with his mother, brother and grandmother. We got to ask Jack questions about his past, allowing us to understand what his life was like.

My favourite part of the outing was getting to meet Jack, his in-depth answers providing vital information for the area of study in Year 11 History.

Lila Kelly Year 11



AFL Umpire Academy



From March 4th until May 6th students have participated in 6 sessions with the AFL Umpiring Academy.

Students were given the opportunity to work with high level AFL umpires, who taught them the basics of being a goal, boundary, and field umpire. All participants worked well to pick up the fundamentals and have the opportunity to take these skills into the Outer Eastern Football League.

If there is any more interest in umpiring at the local level, please see details below. Thank you to all the participants and facilitators for their involvement.

Ben Blattman
Health and PE Domain Leader



Year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies - Snorkelling and Sailing



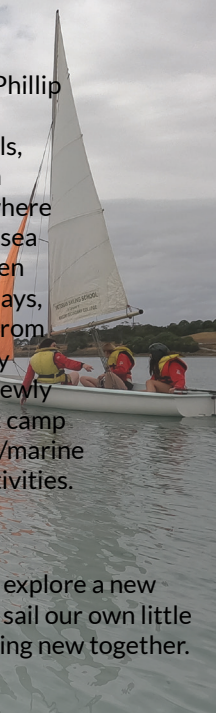
On the first day we boarded a boat and headed into Port Phillip Bay to Pope's Eye Marine Conservation Area. We went snorkelling and swimming with lots of Australian fur seals, and got up close to the gannet breeding colony. We then hopped back on the boat and travelled over to Portsea, where we explored the pier and saw lots of weedy seadragons and other sea life. On the way home we did flips off of the top of the boat and even had a pod of dolphins swimming alongside us. Over the next two days, students became excellent sailors thanks to fantastic instruction from the Victorian Sailing School. Favourable conditions on the final day allowed us to venture further out into the bay and challenge our newly learnt skills with stronger winds and currents. This was a fantastic camp and gave students an opportunity to learn more about the coastal/marine biome and reasons why we participate in outdoor recreational activities.

Casey Wright Health and PE



Our Year 11 Outdoor Ed class went to Port Phillip Bay to explore a new environment. We went snorkelling with seals and got to sail our own little boat. We all gave it a good go and enjoyed doing something new together.

Taya Hatch Year 11





ANZAC Day March and Ceremony in Yarra Junction

Our College Captains and College Band spoke and performed wonderfully at the ANZAC Day March and Ceremony in Yarra Junction. Special thanks to Ms Kellie Woollard and Ms Bianca Fraser, and to the staff, students, and families who attended. Lest we forget.



Schools' ANZAC Day Service at the Upper Yarra RSL



On Wednesday 8th May our Year 9 Leadership class attended the Schools' ANZAC Day Service at the Upper Yarra RSL. All the local primary schools were present as well as RSL dignitaries, members of parliament and service veterans.

Our students helped set up and pack up, served food, and read the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. The RSL organiser, Shelley, spoke to our students and commended them for the responsibility and respect they displayed. She spoke about what excellent role models they had been to the local primary school students, and how important their contributions had been to the success of the service.

Mitchell Gray Health and PE



Gnurad-Gundidj School for Student Leadership

For nine weeks of Term 4, four Year 9 students are attending the Gnurad-Gundidj School for Student Leadership. Here is an update from them after their first three weeks.



Camp is great! I'm having so much fun. I have already been swimming, surfing, hiking, building bridges, planning for a bush dance and much, much more.

Every day I'm making new connections and learning so much. I have made so many friends and can't wait to make more. I don't miss home nearly as much as I thought I would because the people here are weirder than me (in the best way). I can't wait to see everyone and tell you all about my great experiences and achievements.

Henri Morrissey Year 9



Camp has been so good, every day is a different experience where you learn something new about yourself or the people around you.

We have done activities like surfing, hiking, bridge building, mountain biking and lots of other things. I've learned to be more resilient and confident in my own abilities, and how to work better in a group. I'm having such a good time and I'm not missing home nearly as much as I thought. I've made a nice home here and everyone is really friendly and accepting.

Jaia Bell Year 9

Year 9 Empowerment Day and Man Cave



Empowerment Day was an amazing learning experience for me and my friends.

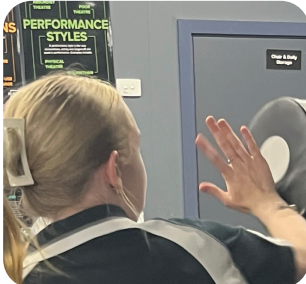
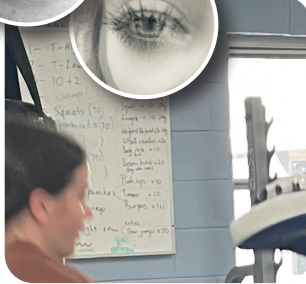
Our group spent the first session of the day understanding and talking about our feelings and what effect they have on us. We drew emotion flowers to help us understand our feelings and characteristics.

Then we met up with a very talented mum and daughter helping other young ladies learn about defence to help us build our confidence.

Towards the end of the day, the girls had some activities to choose from: a boxing class, flower crown making, friendship bracelets, photography or skincare. I chose to do the skincare activity, it helped us learn about self-care and staying hygienic. We were given a reusable makeup wipe that we could bring home, and we did skincare on a partner.

All of the activities made me feel a lot more confident in my own body and I felt as if I understood myself more. Throughout the day I bonded with not only my peers but also with my teachers, it was a very friendly and welcoming day.

Georgia O'Connor Year 9





Year 9 Empowerment Day and Man Cave



Empowerment day for the Year 9 girls was such a great experience.

We participated in a self defence class to help us girls develop more confidence and teach us how to properly protect ourselves in those real life scary situations, and a session based on women's empowerment which helped us to express our feelings and explore each other's personalities. We drew and labelled flowers that described our personal characteristics and life issues that we have overcome. Towards the end of the day, we were able to choose an activity that would bring out a smile.

This was an amazing bonding experience and was definitely such a fun day.

Jess Nettlefold Year 9



MAN CAVE



In Term 1 we got to experience the Man Cave. We had people come and tell us about their past and how the Man Cave worked. We had fun, played games, and learned things about other people we never knew. We had a down ball tournament which was really fun and brought the Year 9 boys together.

Blake Starostecki-Dyer Year 9



The Man Cave was an experience different from any other, it started off with a game that everyone seemed to enjoy, there was shouting and laughter from everyone. Throughout the day people became more open and spoke about things that I otherwise would not have known. I watched as people became more thoughtful and respectful to others after hearing about their problems and it made me strive to be a person who seriously thinks about what he says.

Tyler Devisser Year 9

Gnurad-Gundidj Campus

School for Student Leadership



Since I have been at Gnurad-Gundidj School for Student Leadership I have done many activities I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do without being here.

Everyone here is split into four expo groups. So far we have gone off campus with our expo group for bridge building, surfing and multiple hikes. Coming up we have LLP (Local Learning Project) Day where we will run a day for some local primary schoolers.

It has been such a unique experience and I have made so many great friendships.

Kate Gardiner Year 9



It's been great here! We have been doing many things, learning about ourselves, and becoming better people overall. We have also been hiking, learning life skills, surfing, mountain biking, and other things like that.

Angus Anderson Year 9





Tintern Horse Trials



On the last weekend of April, I attended the Tintern Grammar Interschool Horse Trial Championships. As I'm a Year 12 this was my final year taking part in the event and representing Upper Yarra Secondary College. Being the only representative from the College this year I wanted to do well, and I had the pleasure of riding Lexi.

We ended up coming 4th in a large class of wonderful horses and riders which was a huge accomplishment. I had only ridden Lexi a few times prior to the competition and we faced many obstacles out on the course, but she was incredible and jumped clear throughout the entire event.

This weekend was bittersweet for me, high school has passed by so quickly and events will come to a close for my team of horses and myself very soon.

A huge thank you to Miss Wright for her coaching and encouragement, Lexi and I could not have done it without you!

And thank you to Mr Tully for our new UYSC saddle pads (modelled by Lexi), they looked great!

Hannah Lindner Year 12

Year 7/8/9/10 Girls Footy



On the 7th of May the girls football and boys netball teams went out on Interschool Sport. This was the single most successful day of competition that UYSC has had in recent memory.

Our Year 9/10 girls won the intermediate football division. Outstanding footballers on the day were Isabelle Ferguson, Milla Plunkett, Chelsea Tamme, Shae Bextream, Crystal Norris, Jade Bennett, and Skye Comer. Special thanks to Josh Plunkett as guest coach and the amazing job he did.

Mitchell Gray Interschool Sport Coordinator



Years 7/8 Boys Netball



On the 7th of May the Year 7/8 boys went to Interschool netball. It was a great day and everyone had lots of fun and gave it their all. The 7/8 A team were undefeated for the day bringing home the win in the grand final, with the other UYSC teams not far behind.

It was great to see everyone joining in and some people even learning to play netball for the first time. Overall it was an amazing day and everybody had lots of fun.

Malachi Syme Year 7



Years 9/10 Girls Netball



On the 1st of May the Year 9/10 girls netball team went out to compete. We had a great day out with all smiles on and off the court. The A team came 2nd, missing out on the flag by two goals, in a very close game. They won all their other games. All the girls had an amazing time and demonstrated high skills, positive attitudes, athleticism and College values. Thank you to Ms Hermansen and Ms Baldwin for taking us out on the day.

Zoe Timoney Year 10 Captain



Years 9/10 Boys Footy



On Wednesday 1st May, our Year 9/10 boys football team travelled to Chirnside Park to compete. Our team finished 2nd overall on the day, in a huge effort that will make our UYSC community proud. With only 18 players on the day, our boys played 4 games in a row with no interchange rotations. That's 120 minutes of footy!

Winning the first game, we then lost our second game, however given the strength of the opposing team and the fact we had just played with no rotations, our team put on an incredible performance. We then won our third and fourth games. The boys showed fantastic resilience and great teamwork throughout the day. With a number of different goal kickers, everyone played their role. We have some incredibly talented players who we hope to see make it to the big time one day.

Luke McCormick Year 10 Leader



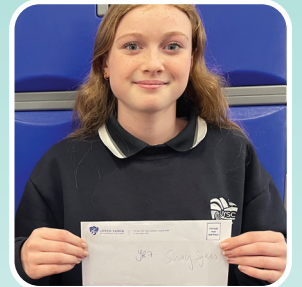
Year 10 Boys Netball



On the 7th of May, my friends and I participated in the Year 10 boys netball tournament. Throughout the day we played all our local schools and ended the day undefeated. I'm really looking forward to the next round for another exciting day with my friends.

A big thank you to Mr Schultz for coaching us for the day.

Oliver Stenhouse Year 10



Year 7 Assembly



At our recent Year 7 assembly, student success was celebrated with Good Work Certificates handed out by classroom teachers to those who have demonstrated our school values.

Our athletics champions Jade Pearson and Malachi Syme were presented with their medals, and A'isha Strbac and Shay Sykes were presented with their Values Awards for Term 1.

Year 7 Students of the Week so far this year, Kaleb Van Meeuwen and Levi Whitten, were also presented with their certificates.

Congratulations to all who were celebrated.

Laura Molan Year 7 Team

